

Lake Restoration Prioritization Process and Program

Key Concepts and Facts

- Lakes are important to Iowans
 - Six of ten Iowans visit lakes each year; they will visit these lakes an average of eight times during the year
- Iowans prefer lakes with better water quality
- Lakes provide significant economic benefits
 - Statewide our lakes generate \$977 million in annual spending by Iowans
- A lake is a reflection of both watershed and lake management
- Lake restoration starts in the watershed; it relies on strong local involvement and voluntary participation of landowners

Current Prioritization and Program

- Modeled after the Federal Clean Lakes Program established in the 1970s
- DNR provided the 2006 legislature with a priority list of 35 lake candidates
 - Priorities based on a 5-year ISU/DNR assessment of water quality
 - Technical feasibility of restoration
 - Potential economic benefits
 - Use by Iowans, and local interest/involvement
- Projects require a lake and watershed restoration assessment and plan
- Projects require local resources in combination with state and federal funds
- Local groups can petition to have their lake added to the priority list
- Project Status
 - 7 to be completed in 2008
 - 13 in progress
 - 13 in review
- DNR provides an annual progress report to the legislature that includes a work plan and budget

Water Quality Goals

Stipulated in 2006 State Legislation (HF2782):

- Delivery of phosphorous and sediment from the watershed will be controlled before lake restoration begins
- Shallow lakes management will be considered among options for restoration
- Water quality targets
 - Clarity. 4 ½ foot secchi disc transparency 50% of the time from April – September
 - Biota. A diverse, balanced, and sustainable aquatic community must be maintained
 - Impairment. Water quality impairments must be eliminated
 - Sustainability. The water quality and public use benefits must be sustained for 50 years

Budget

- 2007 funding \$8.6 Million
- 2008 funding \$8.6 Million
- 2009 funding \$8.6 Million (Requested and Budgeted)

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